He further said the families of those who were killed in action would get an immediate cash grant and, in addition, the government would arrange for their accommodation and food. After the war they would be given a monthly grant. The government had already called for names from commanders in this regard. Those who became disabled would be physically rehabilitated and

would also be resettled in society,

added Osmany. The commander-in-chief called upon the nation and Mukti Bahini members to step up the fight and said, "Wherever you are in Bangladesh, in the rivulets, lakes, fields and remote recesses of the rural interior, on the riverine highways, land routes, rural markets, industrial centres, towns and cities -- strike the enemy with whatever you can find. Strike him hard. Destroy him. Obliterate all semblance of his existence. [Go] Forward my countrymen to protect the lives and honour of our men and women, to secure the future of our citizens, whatever be their religion, caste or creed and to defend the independence of Bangladesh.'

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed a Pakistani patrol near Kutubpur and killed two

We have truth and justice enemy soldiers. Earlier Mukti Bahini carried out a number of raids on Pakistani positions in Raghunathpur, Sarha and Churamankati in Jessore district killing 11 Pakistani troops including an officer.

In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini shelled Pakistani positions at Sulipukar, Pakuriaghat, Pakijria, Thanthania, Balanoor and Manchosha killing 32 Pakistani soldiers and 21 razakars. In Pakuria alone the enemy troops suffered 16 casualties. Mukti Bahini destroyed seven enemy bunkers in the area. On the night of September 24, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani positions near Chilahati, killing three Pakistani troops and injuring 52. Near Jabai, Mukti Bahini killed seven Pakistani soldiers in a fatal encounter.

STEPS TAKEN BY YAHYA NOT **ENOUGH: SIR ALEC**

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, British foreign secretary, yesterday made a statement in the House of Commons that measures taken by Yahya Khan was not enough and that the international community should do far more than what it was doing to help India with her enormous problem with refugees from East Pakistan.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

SSC exams likely to start

conduct some preparation works. All others boards will announce routines soon," he added.

Earlier this week, all education boards sent proposals of possible routines to the education ministry for its approval. Asked, Prof Nehal Ahmed,

chairman of Dhaka Education Board and the chief of Inter-Education Board Coordination Subcommittee, said they were yet to get any order from the

"Once we get the directives, we will make routines for SSC exams of all nine general education boards," he

Usually, SSC and its equivalent exams take place in February but the coronavirus pandemic forced the government to postpone the exams

expected to take the SSC and its

equivalent exams this session.

Earlier on July 15, Education Minister Dipu Moni said the government wanted to hold the SSC and its equivalent exams in the second week of November and the HSC and its equivalent tests in the first week of

The government said the students would not have to sit for tests in compulsory subjects like Bangla, English and Mathematics.

Since there will be no tests in the compulsory subjects, the students' GPA of the previous public exams will be considered for the final results of the SSC and HSC exams.

The results of the three optional subjects and the Grade Point Average (GPA) of the students' previous public examinations, including Junior School Certificate (JSC) tests, will

Jhumon gets conditional bail from HC

NEWS

for the next year without permission

from the lower court concerned. The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol passed the order following a petition filed by Jhumon Das's mother Nibha Rani Das seeking his bail in the case.

The petitioner's lawyer ZI Khan Panna told The Daily Star that there was no legal bar for Jhumon Das to be released from Sunamganj jail following the HC's bail order.

He said Jhumon Das will be released from jail when the jail authorities receive the bail order.

Lawyers Tabarak Hossain, Subrata Chowdhury, Nahid Sultana Juthi and Ashraf Ali also appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Yahiya Dulal and Assistant

And it is over this stretch of the Bay of

Bengal that the two neighbours have

Then on July 7, the UN's Permanent

Court of Arbitration at The Hague

awarded Bangladesh 19,467 square

and binding on both countries and

cannot be appealed against, ensured

Bangladesh's claims of an equitable

solution to a full 200 nmi EEZ and

a substantial share of the extended

Thus, it provided Bangladesh with

But India has been using a baseline

that does not meet Article 7 of the

United Nations Convention on the

Law of the Sea (UNCLO) and based

on the baseline are the EEZ and

the breadth of the territorial sea is

the low-water line along the coast as

marked on large-scale charts officially

In localities where the coastline is

deeply indented and cut into, or if

there is a fringe of islands along the

coast in its immediate vicinity, the

method of straight baselines joining

recognised by the coastal state.

The normal baseline for measuring

continental shelf set.

continental shelf beyond 200 nmi.

more than 118,813 sq km of water.

The judgement, which is final

kilometres of the disputed waters.

been sparring over four decades.

Bangladesh asks UN

Attorney General Md Mizanur March 17. Rahman represented the state.

Jhumon Das's mother Nibha Rani Das recently filed the petition saying he has been suffering in jail for a long period without any trial.

ZI Khan Panna told the HC that Jhumon Das is a patriot and not a traitor as he spoke out against communal forces.

The case should have been filed against those communal forces under

the DSA, he argued. Police, with the help of locals, detained Jhumon on March 16 to pacify agitated Hefajat supporters and avoid a possible attack on the village, but in vain.

They showed Jhumon, 25, arrested under section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and produced him before a Sunamgani court on

appropriate points may be employed

in drawing the baseline from which

the breadth of the territorial sea is

baseline along its east coast does not

meet the criteria stated in the UNCLO.

Bangladesh made a formal objection

to the UN Secretary-General over the

points for the straight baselines are

completely at sea without reference to

any low-water mark of any "proximate

area of terra firma" and are not

grounded on any form of coastline,

said the diplomatic letter handed over

by Bangladesh Permanent Mission to

entirely at sea; the nearest Indian coast

India's base point 89 is located on

Bangladesh's side of the maritime boundary with India, 2.3 miles inside

India to correct the mistake in 2014,

but the neighbouring country has

yet to do so, said Khurshed Alam,

is approximately 10.5 nm distant.

Bangladeshi waters," it said.

For example, India's Base Point 87 is

The government of Bangladesh

particularly concerned that

Bangladesh bilaterally requested

the UN in New York.

In addition, some of the base

India's deployment of the straight

Subsequently, on September 13,

measured.

The court later sent him to jail. His Facebook post allegedly led to the mayhem in Noagaon village of Sunamganj's Shalla upazila on March 17, which saw about 90 Hindu houses vandalised and looted.

On March 22, police filed the case against Jhumon and 20-30 unnamed people under DSA. In the case statement, they attached Jhumon's Facebook post and mentioned that he intentionally spread information that is aggressive, intimidating, false and disgraceful in nature.

They also said Jhumon in his Facebook post attached a defamatory photo of Mamunul Haque.

A Sunamganj court on April 20 placed Jhumon on two-day remand in the DSA case. Police remanded him into custody and sent him back to jail.

secretary at the maritime affairs unit

base point 89 some 2.3 miles inside Bangladeshi waters," said Touhid

points has created a grey area in the

Hossain, former foreign secretary.

"I don't know why India used its

India's incorrect use of the base

The grey area is an area lying within

The issue of the grey area does

200 miles from the coast of one state

but beyond a maritime boundary with

not arise in connection with the

establishment of the outer limit of the

continental shelf of Bangladesh if the

normal baseline is used by India, the

to Bangladesh's base point 2 at Putney

Island down the Sundarbans, which

is on the land, Alam said, adding that

it is beyond the legal purview of the

Asked if the objections hamper

But the issues of continental shelf

Bangladesh's activities in the sea,

and basepoints still need to be settled

in line with the court verdict. We want

what has been settled by the court

In a bizarre move, India has objected

of the foreign affairs ministry.

sea, according to Alam.

another state.

letter said.

UNCLOS.

Alam said it does not.

not anything else."

AL men stage

DHAKA FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2021, ASHWIN 9, 1428 BS

lines to set fire to those.

Rahman, station master of Tongi Railway Station. Rail communications became normal around 7:00pm after police rushed to the spot, drove out the

brought the situation under control, he added. Besides, vehicular movement on Tongi-Ghorashal Road was suspended for an hour. But the vehicles, which

However, Mayor termed the video's content false and fabricated.

it's content in social media to make "questionable".

refused to talk about the issue.

An accused petitioner who seeks anticipatory bail from the HC has to appear in person before the bench concerned during the hearing of the anticipatory bail petition in a case, HC

On April 26, police recovered the body of the 21-year-old college student hanging from the ceiling fan of her bedroom in a Gulshan flat.

sister filed the case with a Dhaka court against Anvir over the rape and murder of the college student.

and six others were also made accused in the case on charge of abetting the

Mahbub Piyasha, Saifa Rahman Mim, the flat's owner Ibrahim Ahmed Ripon and his wife Sharmim. The elder sister of the victim filed

the case with the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-8 of

'SBAC Bank chief flexed muscles to get loans' be taken into consideration while Around 21 lakh students are preparing the final results. Amzad is also president and chief was supposed to keep cent percent

26 morning. They will be quizzed

Officer Khaled Mosharraf, First

Vice President Ziaul Latif, Senior

Executive Vice President Mamunur

Rashid Molla and Deputy Managing

collected necessary documents and

intelligence report on the alleged

Sources said the ACC has already

On August 22, an application

People aware of the investigation

say that a client of SBAC's Motijheel

branch, Al-Amin Construction's

owner Masudur Rahman, had a

firm to execute work awarded by the

government, semi-government and

autonomous bodies. It is one kind of

loan in which disbursement is made

with the progress of execution of the

The SOD allows a contractual

Secured Over Draft with the bank.

was submitted to the governor of

Bangladesh Bank detailing alleged

Director Shawkat Ali.

loan forgeries by Amzad.

Half a crore Covid shots FROM PAGE 12 received the consignment at the

airport, the notification reads.

Meanwhile, Covid-19 deaths, new cases and the positivity rate dropped yesterday, according to a DGHS press

In the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, 24 more people died from Covid, the lowest in around four

The previous day, the figure was 36. On May 27, DGHS reported 22 deaths from the disease.

In the same 24 hours yesterday, 1,144 new cases were detected countrywide. The previous day, the number of confirmed cases was 1,376.

Against a total of 24,820 tests, the positivity rate was 4.61 percent. The rate was 4.79 percent the previous day.

This marked the below-five-percent positivity rate for three straight days. Organization, the positivity rate

droplet is enough to cause TB? The

way to a cold or flu, someone has to be

in prolonged contact with a person with

active TB to catch it themselves. So, if

you travel on the bus with a TB-infected

There's another catch: many might

even have the TB bacteria in them,

but they will not be sick, neither will

they spread. The primary differences

between active TB and latent TB are

that the latter does not have any

symptoms, does not spread, chest

X-ray scans will return normal, but a

symptoms, you will not feel sick, you

will not cause harm to others, but you

will test positive. Expert physician

advice is always encouraged, even to

Active TB, however, will come with

treat cases of latent TB.

This means, you will not show

TB skin test will come out positive.

person, you're not likely to catch it.

Although TB spreads in a similar

answer is no.

Tuberculosis not a death

stretch indicates the transmission is under control. The months of June and July

below five percent for two weeks at a

were the toughest months after the transmission of novel coronavirus broke out in the country on March 8 From early August this year, the

virus transmission started falling.

So far, 15,48,320 people have tested positive for the viral infection in the country.

Of them, 27,337 died, which is around 1.76 percent of all confirmed

Among yesterday's deceased, 10 were men and 14 women.

Of them, highest 11 died in Dhaka division, six in Chattogram, three each in Khulna and Sylhet, and one in Rangpur divisions.

No Covid deaths were recorded in According to the World Health Rajshahi, Barishal, and Mymensingh divisions yesterday.

chest pains, fever, night sweats, loss

of appetite, fatigue, weight loss, and

a persistent cough that comes with

blood or sputum. If you have been

coughing for more than two weeks,

it is best to test for TB. The faster you

at least a year-long process, but results

start to show within weeks. Doctors

usually prescribe a combination of

significantly better, it is important to

continue taking your medication as

any disruption to the course runs the

risk of relapsing. However, this time, it

might be harder since the bacteria will

neither is it easily transmissible.

Managing the disease is easy with a

little dedication, timely checkups, and

an outlook to never give up on the

TB is not a death sentence anymore;

Treatment and management of TB is

While you will start to feel

start the treatment, the better.

antibacterial medications.

have become drug-resistant.

medication.

Rafiqul Islam and eight incumbent executive officer (CEO) of Lockpur collateral against the loan. officials to appear at the graft Group, an exporter of frozen seafood. watchdog's headquarters in the Sources said Amzad produced one capital's Segunbagicha on September of his staffers from Lockpur Group as a

supplier to the Al-Amin Construction

and withdrew Tk 7.5 crore. The The eight officials are: SBAC's incident took place in June, 2019. Management Trainee Officer Topu Amzad along with SBAC Director Kumar Saha, Senior Officer Biddut Capt M Moazzam Hossain approved Kumar Mandal, Operations Manager a Tk 3 crore SOD to one Ador Manjurul Alam, Vice President SM Enterprise. Igbal Mehedi, Senior Executive

Johirul Islam, a staffer of a brokerage house E-Securities owned by Moazzam, was shown as proprietor of Ador Enterprise. About Tk 2 crore was transferred

to Khulna Printing and Packaging owned by Amzad. Another Tk 1 crore payment order was issued to Fareast Social Foundation. Amzad and Moazzam Both

members of Fareast Social Foundation. SBAC also approved an SOD of

Tk 3 crore to Rafi-Mahi Corporation owned by one AKM Asif Uddin. The SOD limit was gradually increased to Tk 9.15 crore. Asif Uddin is also a staffer of

Lockpur Group, investigators have found.

Besides, Amzad allegedly opened a letter of credit worth Tk 374 crore for his company Rupsha Fish and Allied Industries Ltd with the SBAC.

According to the decision of the SBAC board of directors, Amzad

But he kept only 5 percent

collateral. On top of that, the 5 percent margin was returned to Amzad within a few days of opening the letter of credit.

As a chairman of the bank, Amzad was supposed to take permission from the central bank for this, but he

Preferring to be unnamed, an ACC official said they would soon submit an enquiry report before the commission in this regard.

On September 7, Amzad expressed his intention to resign from SBAC.

Citing illness, he wrote to the board of the private commercial lender expressing the intention to step down. He also requested the board to begin the process of selecting a new chairman by October.

On March 11, the BFIU had asked banks to freeze the accounts of Amzad, his wife Begum Sufia Amzad and their daughter for 30 days.

The agency also sought the details of their accounts.

On January 7, the ACC urged the Special Branch of police to impose a ban on Amzad's travel.

Amzad holds 3.21 percent share in the bank.

Despite repeated attempts, he could not be reached yesterday for comments on the matter. His mobile phone was found switched off.

Targets precise in weekend robberies

work given.

light on the day and the agents shift the cash from home to office after the weekly holiday on Friday.

They used to visit the capital from Barishal every week, rob victims on Saturday and then return to Barishal, Mishu Biswas, additional deputy commissioner of DB, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The gang mainly chose the time between 11:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday to conduct the robbery," he

Police made the arrests while conducting a shadow investigation of a case filed with Ramna Police Station regarding a robbery of Tk 60 lakh from Mouchak flyover on August 28.

A businessman was going towards Gulshan after converting around 29,000 euros into Bangladeshi taka from Motijheel's Nihan Money Exchange.

DB chief Hafiz Akter said members of the gang first intercepted the businessman's car on the flyover around 1:20pm with a private car and two motorcycles. To intimidate the businessman, the robbers fired two shots in the air and broke the car

window with a hammer, he said. Another group opened the back door of the car, seized the cash and

left the scene, added Hafiz. A week later on September 4, the same gang again looted Tk 25 lakh in

cash by stopping the car of another businessman, who had just made a transaction at a Motijheel money exchange, in Sanarpar area on the way to Narayanganj from Motijheel, said the police official.

This robbery was also conducted within the gang's preferred time of day, around 1:50pm. As locals tried to stop the robbers, they fired shots, one of which wounded a passer-by, said

ADC Mishu Biswas said for the last five to six years, the gang has been conducting robberies every Saturday.

The gang has around 15 members in their racket. Three to four of the racket are now in jail and three others have been arrested. But some six to eight others are on the run," he said.

The gang members only chose areas without CCTV coverage to conduct the robberies, Mishu said.

The members always used cars to tail targets as the perpetrators could be identified if they were on motorcycles. During the operation, however, they used motorcycles to flee the scene, he

All of the members are from Barishal and met each other when serving time in jail, the ADC said.

Jalil is the ringleader and used to secrecy about the operation and the evidence," added ADC Mishu.

gang members, Mishu said.

We have seized two foreign firearms, which the arrestees said they got from Jashore. But they are not revealing the identities of the people who supplied the weapons," he said. "We are suspecting a top gun supplier of the country might have links with

Through their weekly robberies, the gang members have amassed substantial property. Jalil is an owner of around 100 decimals of land and a farm in Barishal, said the official.

Another gang member -- who is on the run -- also has a farm with around 80 cattle. The member also owns a sweetmeat shop. Another arrestee, Liton, is renowned in his locality and his wife is a teacher at a government

Jalil was an accused in around four cases, Riaz in two cases and Liton in one case, said police.

"Some hundi traders, who often convert foreign currency to local cash, were also targeted by the gang," ADC Mishu said, adding that hundi members were easy targets as they did not file cases after such incidents.

"We have got some information about the absconding members. We are also tracking property details of take any new recruits to a mazar in the arrestees and gang members and Sylhet and make them take an oath of a case will be filed after collecting

FROM PAGE 12

up garbage at different places on rail

As a result, rail communications remained suspended for around one and an half hour. At least, eight trains were delayed for this, said Rakibur

demonstrators from the area and

were supposed to ply this route, used Shaheed Ahsanullah Master Flyover to avoid troubles. Zahangir

In another video statement yesterday, he also claimed that his rivals released the video by editing him, his party and the government

Bashundhara MD

Contacted, Anvir's lawver Imam

sources said.

On September 6, the victim's elder

Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam

The six other accused are Shah Alam's wife Afroza Begum, Anvir's wife Sabrina Sayem, model Faria

Suriname VP

in the forward position alongside Damian Brunswijk, who happens to be his son.

'Ronnie Brunswijk (Vice-President of Suriname and President of Inter Moengotapoe) becomes the oldest player (60 years and 198 days) to play in an international club match," the sports commentator known as "MisterChip" tweeted.

A former army sergeant and exrebel leader, Brunswijk participated in Suriname's civil war in the 1980s against then-dictator Desi Bouterse.

Today Brunswijk is a wealthy businessman as well as a politician, but in 1999 he was found guilty in absentia of drug trafficking and sentenced to eight years in prison by a court in the Netherlands, Suriname's former colonial power.

A French court found him guilty for the same crime and in 2000 sentenced him to 10 years prison.

Brunswijk however is safe at home. as Suriname does not extradite its citizens.

First elected to parliament in 2005, Brunswijk formed an alliance with the head of the main political opposition, former justice minister Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

In July 2020 Santokhi was elected president for a five year term, with Brunswijk as his vice-president.

Brunswijk will not join in his team's second leg tournament game in Honduras, since he cannot leave the country without risk of facing legal trouble.

Two killed

The robbers had been on the roof for some time and posed as passengers, the OC said.

The bodies of the two victims were recovered after the train reached Dewanganj and were kept at the morgue of the hospital, added the OC.

US authorises Pfizer Covid booster for the elderly, high-risk

AFP, Washington

The United States on Wednesday authorised the use of boosters of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine for people aged over 65, as well as adults at high risk of severe disease and those in nigh-exposure jobs.

The announcement means a significant part of the population - amounting to tens of millions of Americans -- are now eligible for a third shot six months after their second.

"Today's action demonstrates that science and the currently available data continue to guide the FDA's decisionmaking for Covid-19 vaccines during this pandemic," said Janet Woodcock, acting head of the Food and Drug Administration, in a statement.

Congolese reporter charged over UN experts' murder A Congolese journalist suspected of

charged on Wednesday, the military prosecutor's office said. Sosthene Kambidi, who has been held since his arrest in the capital Kinshasa on Monday night, "is no longer being questioned as a witness, but as an accused," a senior prosecutor

told AFP, declining to be identified.

having information about the 2017

killing of two UN experts in central

Democratic Republic of Congo was

"The interrogation is continuing," the prosecutor added, declining to say what the journalist had been charged

American Michael Sharp and Swedish-Chilean Zaida Catalan, had been hired by the United Nations to probe violence in the Kasai region of central DRC. They were kidnapped and murdered in March 2017.

they were killed by members of the Kamuina Nsapu rebel group, which was at war with the state army.

At the time, authorities said